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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 03327.2333-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Yasuhiro OKUMOTO et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1762  
Application No.: 10/539,246 )  
Filed: May 9, 2006 ) Examiner: Empie, Nathan H.  
For: PROCESSING METHOD AND ) Confirmation No.: 9261  
PROCESSING APPARATUS )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE AFTER FINAL**

In reply to the Final Office Action mailed September 10, 2007, the period for response to which extends through December 10, 2007, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Applicants propose that this application be amended as follows:

**Proposed Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper and begin on page 2.

**Remarks/Arguments** follow the amendment section of this paper.